

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 33-40, 44-46 and 49-55 are present in this application. By this Amendment, claims 33 and 45 have been amended, claims 47 and 48 have been canceled, and claims 49-55 have been added. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Entry of this Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 since the Amendment: (a) places the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (b) does not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration (since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution and raised by the Examiner in the previous Office Action); (c) satisfies a requirement of form asserted in the Office Action; (d) does not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally-rejected claims; and (e) places the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The Amendment is necessary and was not earlier presented because it is made in response to arguments raised in the Final Rejection. Entry of the Amendment is thus respectfully requested.

Applicant extends his appreciation to Examiner Sorkin for his courtesy in conducting the telephone interview with Applicant's representative on March 31, 2006. In the interview, Applicant's representative inquired whether it would be permissible to add dependent claims at this stage of prosecution if the independent claims in the application were limited to allowable subject matter. Examiner Sorkin indicated that the addition of such dependent claims would be permissible provided the claims are fully supported in the specification.

Claims 33-40, 45, 47 and 48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claims 33 and 45 have been amended to obviate the lack of antecedent basis referenced in the

Office Action. Claim 47 has been canceled. Withdrawal of the rejection is thus respectfully requested.

Claims 47 and 48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 2,930,596 to Waters. Without conceding this rejection, claims 47 and 48 have been canceled herein. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication that claims 44 and 46 are allowed and that claims 33-40 and 45 contain allowable subject matter. As noted, claims 47 and 48 have been canceled herein, thus leaving only claims having subject matter that has been indicated as being allowable.

As discussed during the telephone interview referenced above, claims 49-55 have been added herein. These dependent claims generally correspond to dependent claims 34-40 and are dependent on allowable claim 44.


In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are patentable over the art of record and that the application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Prompt passage to issuance is earnestly solicited.

McGILL
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Respectfully submitted,

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